Amendments to the Claims

1-28. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently amended) A process for producing the sustained release preparation of claim 33, which comprises the steps of

(1) coating a medicament-containing solid material with a coating solution obtained by dispersing a chitosan powder in a solution of a water-insoluble polymer in ethanol or water to form a water-insoluble coating film onto the medicament-containing solid material, wherein said polymer is selected from the group consisting of ethyl cellulose, ethyl acrylate-methyl methacrylate-trimethylammoniumethyl methacrylate chloride copolymer, and methyl methacrylate-ethyl acrylate copolymer, said chitosan powder having a mean particle size diameter in the range of about 0.5 μm to about 400 μm, and the weight ratio of said chitosan powder to said water-insoluble polymer is in the range of about 1:4 to about 4:1, and

(2) removing the ethanol or water by drying the coated preparation.

30. (Previously present) The process for producing the sustained release preparation according to claim 29, which further comprises a step of coating the preparation of claim 29 with an enteric polymer, wherein the enteric polymer is selected from the group consisting of hydroxypropyl methylcellulose acetate succinate, hydroxypropyl methylcellulose phthalate and methacrylic acid-ethyl acrylate copolymer.

31-32. (Cancelled)

33. (Currently amended) A sustained release preparation comprising a medicament-containing solid material and a water-insoluble coating film, wherein said medicament-containing solid material ~~consisting~~ consists of a medicament and a pharmaceutical excipient, and said water-insoluble coating film ~~consisting~~ consists essentially of a water-insoluble polymer

and a chitosan powder dispersed in said polymer, wherein said polymer is selected from the group consisting of ethyl cellulose, ethyl acrylate-methyl methacrylate-trimethylammoniumethyl methacrylate chloride copolymer, and methyl methacrylate-ethyl acrylate copolymer, said chitosan powder having a mean particle size diameter in the range of about 0.5 μm to about 400 μm, and the weight ratio of said polymer and said chitosan powder is from 4:1 to 1:4.

34. (Previously presented) The sustained release preparation of claim 33, which further comprises a coating with an enteric polymer, wherein said enteric polymer is selected from the group consisting of hydroxypropyl methylcellulose acetate succinate, hydroxypropyl methylcellulose phthalate, and methacrylic acid-ethyl acrylate copolymer.

35-36. (Cancelled)

37. (Previously presented) The sustained release preparation according to claim 33, wherein the medicament-containing solid material is selected from the group consisting of a pellet, a capsule, and a tablet.

38. (Previously presented) The sustained-release preparation according to claim 34, wherein the medicament-containing solid material is selected from the group consisting of a pellet, a capsule, and a tablet.

39-40. (Cancelled)